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General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Sixteenth meeting
6-10 April 2015

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods by resolutions 63/111, 65/37 A, 67/78 and 69/245.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 February 2015, the Co-Chairs, Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru) and Don MacKay (New Zealand), have developed a format for the discussions at the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annex I) and have proposed a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider.

4. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a draft agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The draft agenda will take into account paragraphs 290, 292 and 298 of General Assembly resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014. The sixteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 298 of resolution 69/245, the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the topic entitled "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic". On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the sixteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 6 April 2015 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the sixteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the sixteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that during the general exchange of views delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the sixteenth meeting, "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Information session

6. The Co-Chairs will invite the Co-Facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda to consider delivering some remarks on that process.

Discussion panel
Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic

7. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

[a] All sessions will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 1
The environmental, social and economic dimensions of oceans and progress made in integrating the three dimensions, including an overview of activities and initiatives promoting their integration

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Tuesday, 7 April 2015 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 1 (continued)
The environmental, social and economic dimensions of oceans and progress made in integrating the three dimensions, including an overview of activities and initiatives promoting their integration

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2
Opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 8 April 2015 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2 (continued)
Opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2 (continued)
Opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 9 April 2015 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

8. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/70, the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea is the focal point of UN-Oceans and represents UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including, inter alia, those under the General Assembly. To ensure transparency and accountability, UN-Oceans, upon request from the General Assembly, reports to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In that regard, and pending such request, the focal point of UN-Oceans will be invited to make a brief statement on the activities of UN-Oceans.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

9. The Informal Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 292 of resolution 69/245, that the "Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea". Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

10. The Informal Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of part C of the reports on the work of the Informal Consultative Process from its fourth to fifteenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120, A/68/159 and A/69/90). The Co-Chairs will inform the Informal Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the sixteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly. In that regard, they will recall that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/245, paragraph 298, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussion at its seventeenth meeting in 2016 on the topic "marine debris, plastics and microplastics".

3-6 p.m.[a]

[Reserved]

Friday, 10 April 2015 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

11. The Informal Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the draft format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. The outcome will further include

issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the topic "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic". The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea will make available on its website (www.un.org/Depts/los/index/html) advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea for the seventieth session of the General Assembly, relating to the topic of focus of the sixteenth meeting.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 69/245, recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. The Assembly also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is therefore proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) *The environmental, social and economic dimensions of oceans and progress made in integrating the three dimensions, including an overview of activities and initiatives promoting their integration*

4. The panel segment could elaborate on each of the dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans, namely environmental, social and economic, and their interlinkages, and highlight the importance of integrating the three dimensions to achieve sustainable development. The panel segment could consider the progress made in that regard, including by providing an overview of the scope and types of current activities and initiatives aimed at promoting integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans.

(b) Opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans

5. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex), States acknowledged that, since 1992, there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (paragraph 20). The panel segment could provide various perspectives on the opportunities for, and challenges to, the effective and balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans. The panel could discuss the measures/enabling framework, including required indicators of success, that may be needed to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection at the global, regional and national levels. The panel would also enhance the understanding of integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans in the post-2015 development agenda and the contribution of various stakeholders thereto. Issues related to capacity-building and transfer of technology, as well as cooperation and coordination, would be integrated throughout the panel segment.